

FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH RESTORATION

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Project Number F-27-R-1

Part H - Southcentral Regional Biology

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
ABSTRACT.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
OBJECTIVES.....	2
Planning.....	2
Project Development and Implementation.....	2
Quality Control and Reporting.....	2
Fish Quality.....	2
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	3
Conclusion.....	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	6



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RESEARCH PROJECT SEGMENT

State: Alaska

Name: Southcentral Sport
Fisheries Enhancement

Project: F-27-R

Study: H-1

Study Title: Southcentral Regional
Biology

Cooperators: William J. Hauser

Period Covered: 1 October 1986 to 30 June 1987

ABSTRACT

The Regional Biologist for the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development (FRED) Division (Region II) has been actively involved with developing, planning, coordinating, reviewing, and reporting anadromous salmon sport fisheries enhancement projects. Information has been shared with the public, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and other professional biologists. A special effort to improve the quality of fish released has been maintained to maximize the benefit to the anglers.

KEY WORDS: Enhancement, anadromous, planning, project development.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Biologist for FRED Division is responsible for the overall technical integrity and quality of the fisheries rehabilitation, enhancement, and development projects in Region II; i.e.,

proposal, design, implementation, evaluation, and reporting. Goals must be set for each project, and adequate biometrics review must be included.

OBJECTIVES

Planning

The Regional Biologist establishes schedules for sport fisheries enhancement projects within and between fiscal years, assures that appropriate brood stocks are selected and screened, and participates in planning meetings with personnel from other divisions (e.g., Sport Fish Division) and other agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, Private Nonprofit (PNP) Hatcheries).

Project Development and Implementation

The Regional Biologist coordinates production plans and new stocking requests to assure orderly and timely project implementation, solicits and reviews new project proposals, and develops strategies for new fisheries enhancement projects.

Quality Control and Reporting

The Regional Biologist assures that stocking and evaluation plans will achieve the stated objectives and the operational plans are adequate to accomplish the technical requirements. He observes and critiques project field activities and he supervises, directs, and edits project reports.

Fish Quality

The Regional Biologist assures that release strategies are appropriate and fish released for enhancement projects are of the highest quality. He establishes standards of quality and reviews historic data and current literature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During FY 1987 the FRED Division Regional Biologist participated in planning meetings for fisheries enhancement schedules and projects in Anchorage, Soldotna, Fairbanks, Homer, and Kodiak. Additionally, he participated in project and hatchery program review meetings in Northern Cook Inlet, Central Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Fairbanks. Participants included staff members of FRED, Sport Fish, and Commercial Fisheries Divisions; U.S. Forest Service (Anchorage, Seward, Cordova Region); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Kodiak and Kenai Refuges, Research); and regional aquaculture associations (Kodiak, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and Valdez).

Sport fisheries enhancement projects were coordinated as juvenile anadromous salmon were released, including coho, chinook and pink salmon of several different life stages (fry, fingerling, smolt) among eight production facilities and approximately 45 release sites. Project locations were selected to provide the maximal access for as many anglers as possible. Several new locations were stocked for the first time this year; e.g., Ingram Creek and Homer Spit. Moreover, this was also the first year that pink salmon were planted for sport fisheries enhancement. These activities relied on new project proposals and innovative strategies.

Project plans and evaluation methods were examined and reviewed to assure that project objectives could be achieved and technical requirements met. Numerous field trips were completed to observe and critique field activities: northern, central and lower Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Fairbanks, Seward, and Anchorage.

Numerous reports were edited, including six Federal Aid (D-J) reports and eight FRED Reports. The Regional Biologist coauthored and submitted a manuscript describing the Homer Spit chinook

salmon imprinting and enhancement project to Fisheries (a bulletin of the American Fisheries Society). He also presented a poster at an American Fisheries Society meeting and authored "Report Writer's Toolbox" as an aid to simplify the writing process for other authors within the region.

The Regional Biologist has made an active effort to maintain and improve his technical expertise as well as that of other biologists within the region. He was directly involved in the operation and presentation of the Alaska Chapter meeting of the American Fisheries Society and the 1987 International Pink and Chum Salmon Workshop, and he participated in the Chinook Salmon Workshop. He was a copresenter at an Alaska Sportfishing Association meeting and the Alaska Sportfishing Fair. He was awarded a public involvement citation by FRED Division during 1986.

To maintain and improve the quality of fish released for enhancement projects, new techniques of fish production, transportation, and release have been investigated and critiqued. Projects with poor benefit-cost records were scrutinized, and if improvements could not be made, they were deleted.

Conclusion

The Regional Biologist for FRED Division (Region II) has been actively involved in planning the technical aspects of fisheries enhancement projects and programs. Coordination of these activities has included all area personnel within FRED Division, ADF&G, and other public and private agencies.

For anadromous enhancement purposes, juvenile salmon were released in various combinations that included three species and three life stages from eight production facilities at approximately 45 locations. These releases will enhance existing runs and provide many new and unique opportunities for anglers. This was the first year that pink salmon were released to create new sport fishing opportunities.

Project plans were reviewed and numerous field trips were completed to assure that project objectives would be achieved. Reports were edited, coauthored, and authored to document results from enhancement projects and to share technology that had been developed as well as information that had been gained within and outside of FRED Division (Region II). Technical assistance was provided as necessary. Every opportunity was taken to improve fish quality and the benefit-cost of enhancement projects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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